

Remarks

This Amendment has revised the application which is now believed to be in allowable condition for reasons discussed below.

The present invention involves a traveller for a fall arrest system, a support for a safety line of a fall arrest system, and a fall arrest system including at least one support and a traveller that are used to attach to fall safety equipment in order to arrest a fall of the user. The traveller is identified by 1 in Figure 1A and the support is identified by 2. The traveller 1 has a body including a passage 10 through which the safety line 3 extends. The traveller body includes an inner gate 11A that extends inwardly with respect to the passage 10 and an outer gate 11B that extends outwardly with respect to the passage 10. The inner gate 11A and the outer gate 11B have respective convex surfaces that oppose each other and define a slot 11. A straight section 13B of an arm of the support 2 mounts a locating or support section 12 through which the safety line 3 extends, and the arm straight section 13B is narrower than the slot 11 and extends tangentially with respect to a circle concentric with the safety line 3 and the locating or support section 12.

The manner in which the inner and outer traveller gates 11A and 11B respectively extend inwardly and outwardly with respect to the passage 10 and have opposed convex surfaces allows the traveller when its slot 11 receives the tangential straight section 13B of the support arm to pivot to different angles as shown in Figures 1B and 1C in a way that has not previously been done.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims distinguish over the United States Patent 5,979,599 Noles. In the Noles patent, the component of the track-travelling element 40 extending downwardly and outwardly with respect to the track 31 in Figure 3b does not extend inwardly with respect to its passage in accordance with the recited inner gate of the traveller of the present application. Likewise, the element that extends upwardly and to the left from the load support 55 in Figure 3b extends inwardly with respect to the passage as opposed to outwardly

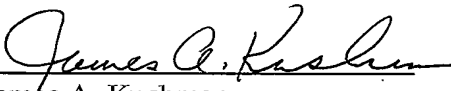
in accordance with the recited outer gate of the traveller of the present invention. Thus, in Noles his inner component extends only outwardly and his outer component extends only inwardly to define the slot 43. As such, the Noles curvilinear portion 23 that extends through his slot 43 must be curved and cannot be straight because the slot 43 will not accommodate pivoting of the track-travelling element 40 unless the arm portion is curved.

As discussed above, the construction of the present invention with the inwardly extending inner gate 11A and the outwardly extending outer gate 11B together with their opposed convex surfaces and the straight tangential section 13B of the support arm permits a greater extent of pivoting of the traveller between the Figure 1B and Figure 1C positions. Noles does not teach or suggest such a construction.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims 1-15, 19 and 20 of the application distinguish over the prior art and are allowable such that it is appropriate to hereby respectfully solicit allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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